CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

a first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element of the communications network that ~~identifies~~ performs identification of policy-enabled resources that are available and allocates requested policy-enabled resources to services;

a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the communications network that makes requests, from available policy-enabled resources, of any policy-enabled resources within a first domain required to establish a particular service, the requests from the available policy-enabled resources being separate from the identification of the policy-enabled resources; and

a first resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes ~~provisions, to a~~ the particular service ~~being established,~~ and provisions the policy-enabled resources allocated to ~~that~~ the particular service, said first resource policy layer including a first policy ~~description protocol~~ decision point (PDP), wherein:

said first NRC <u>acts as a trusted entity that</u> initiates <u>an</u> association

between said first PEP and said first PDP,

said first PDP provides said first PEP with ~~a policy~~ <u>policies</u> upon

establishment of said association between said first PEP and first PDP, and

when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside

the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said

second domain, which <u>acts as the trusted entity that</u> initiates <u>an</u> association

between a second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first

PDP providing said second PEP with ~~a policy~~ <u>the policies</u> upon establishment

of said association between said second PEP and said first PDP~~, whereby~~

~~there is a decoupling of policy management from the management of policy~~

~~enabled resources.~~

2.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said

first PEP comprises a plurality of virtual PEPs, each virtual PEP being associated

to a respective service.

3-5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the

apparatus further comprises<u>:</u>

3   a second RPL associated with ~~a~~ the second domain comprising ~~a~~ the second

4   PEP.

1   7.   (Canceled)

1   8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein resource

2   capability information descriptors are used for resource discovery and policy

3   provisioning.

1   9.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-

2   enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   identifying, at a first policy enforcement point (PEP), policy-enabled

4   resources within a first domain that are available and allocating requested policy-

5   enabled resources to services;

6   requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

7   resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish a

8   particular service, the requesting step being separate from the identifying step;

9   establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);

10   and

11   provisioning, to ~~a~~ the established service ~~being established at a first resource~~

12   ~~policy layer (RPL)~~, the policy-enabled resources allocated to ~~that~~ the established

13 service, said first resource policy layer including ~~at least one~~ a first policy

14 ~~description protocol~~ decision point (PDP), wherein:

15 said first NRC acts as a trusted entity that initiates an association between

16 said first PEP and said first PDP,

17 said first PDP provides said first PEP with ~~a policy~~ policies upon

18 establishment of said association between said first PEP and said first PDP, and

19 when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain outside the

20 first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second NRC in said second

21 domain, which acts as the trusted entity that initiates an association between a

22 second PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first PDP providing said

23 second PEP with ~~a policy~~ the policies upon establishment of said association

24 between said second PEP and said first PDP~~, whereby there is a decoupling of policy~~

25 ~~management from the management of policy-enabled resources~~.

1 10.   (Canceled)

1 11.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein virtual

2 PEPs of ~~a main~~ the first PEP are provisioned to provide resource services.

1 12.   (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein the

2 virtual PEPs are provisioned to provide services in said second domain.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said first

PEP and said second PEP are provisioned with the same service by said first PDP.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the first

PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for ~~said~~ a

particular service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the first

PEP and the second PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request for ~~said~~ a

particular service by one of the first NRC and the second NRC.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus that establishes services that utilize

policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

a first network resource controller (NRC) within a domain on the

communications network, said first NRC requesting, from available policy-enabled

resources, any policy-enabled resources required to establish a particular service;

a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) residing on a network element

of the communications network that is created upon requesting the particular

8   service, said virtual PEP identifying policy-enabled resources that are available and

9   allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10   a resource policy layer (RPL) that establishes the particular service and

11   includes ~~including~~ a policy ~~description protocol~~ decision point (PDP), wherein the

12   virtual PEP is provided with information to contact the PDP of the RPL in order to

13   provision the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular service.

1   20.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize policy-

2   enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

4   resource controller (NRC), any policy-enabled resources required to establish a

5   particular service;

6   creating a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) upon requesting the

7   particular service;

8   identifying, at the virtual PEP, policy-enabled resources that are available

9   and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to the particular service;

10   providing the virtual PEP with information to contact a policy ~~description~~

11   ~~protocol~~ decision point (PDP) of a resource policy layer (RPL);

12   establishing the particular service with a first resource policy layer (RPL);

13   and

14   provisioning, to the ~~particular~~ established service ~~being established at the~~

15   ~~resource policy layer (RPL)~~, the policy-enabled resources allocated to the particular

16   service.